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**U.S. Ambassador visits USAID programs in Eldoret**

U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Robert F. Godec and Mission Director of the United States for International Development (USAID) Karen Freeman visited Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, the USAID-supported M-KOPA solar power project at Safaricom, and the Mercy Corps Early Warning/Early Response team in Eldoret on April 16, 2013.

Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital is the largest local Kenyan organization receiving U.S. government funding for development in Kenya. In 2012, USAID awarded \$75 million for the three-year AMPATH plus project a program administered and managed by a local Kenya institution. “Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital is an excellent example of how the United States supports the Government of Kenya to improve the health of Kenyans. The Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare program, which we call AMPATH, has developed into Kenya's largest and most rigorous effort to prevent and treat HIV and AIDS. The program provides primary health services to more than half a million people in Western Kenya,” said Ambassador Godec.

Since 2004 the program has enrolled more than 140,000 HIV-infected adults and children and provided free treatment and care for patients. “These institutions are helping Kenya turn the tide on the HIV epidemic. You are working so that babies can be born HIV-free, and those living with HIV/AIDS can be empowered and supported in leading healthy and productive lives. The partnership between the U.S. government and Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital is a model of successful development cooperation,” Ambassador Godec added.



Ambassador Godec and USAID Mission Director Freeman also participated in an event to recognize the 10,000<sup>th</sup> customer benefiting from an innovative home solar energy package. Eldoret is the pilot site for an innovative home solar energy financing package that enables rural Kenyan families to generate energy for reading lights and mobile phone charging in their homes without using an electrical plug. “The United States is proud to have contributed to M-KOPA’s successful scale-up of its solar home technology by enabling M-KOPA to access finance through USAID’s Development Credit Authority in partnership with the Acumen Fund. In addition, the United States has invested almost \$ 84 billion Kenyan shillings last year to support the Kenyan people,” said Ambassador Godec. President Obama’s major objective is to make clean energy available to rural households in Sub-Saharan Africa and to help Kenyans access a source of reliable, clean energy. Ambassador Godec said, “This partnership among M-KOPA, Safaricom and USAID is an excellent example of how we can achieve that goal. Congratulations to M-KOPA and Safaricom on your success!”



Ambassador Godec and Mission Director Freeman also visited Mercy Corps, which supported Kenyans involved in the participation of the Early Warning/Early Response System in Kenya’s Northern Rift Valley. The Ambassador took part in a ceremony to recognize the efforts of the Rift Valley civil society organizations, such as Rift Valley Yes Youth Can, which participated in a system that provided early warning response to potential violence during Kenya’s 2013 general elections. Ambassador Godec said, “We are exactly six weeks past peaceful elections and one week into the new democratically-elected administration. We have gathered here to celebrate the work each one of you did during the weeks before and after the recent general election to ensure the process was peaceful. We celebrate your tireless efforts to help the residents of the Rift Valley to exercise their democratic right to vote in peace – despite some very long lines. We can reflect on some important successes in the cause of peace and democracy in Kenya.”

The USAID-funded program Local Empowerment for Peace (LEAP) trained nearly 600 peace monitors located throughout six counties in the Rift Valley. Participants were trained on how to observe and report signs of early warning response. It also established an impressive network of responders – both from civil society and local administration. Ambassador Godec applauded the hard work of the participants and thanked their contribution to the successful program. In the months before the election, the LEAP program proved to be an effective tool for identifying potential conflict hotspots and organizing local peace networks – including Peace Committees, peace monitors, and youth bunge members.



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